

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 14 Issue 1

January - March 2015

## On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

What a tremendous start to 2015! We have completed 5 retreats hosting ministry couples from 10 states in S. Texas, Georgia, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Listening to the burdens of ministry couples and then watching them fellowship together and receive encouragement through the prayer times continually confirms God's call on our lives to this ministry.

In **January**, we traveled to **S. Texas** to host a retreat at 5D Ranch in Nordheim which included these couples: a young *TX assoc. pastor and wife* who had been forced to resign from their church (the Lord has provided a new place of service for them, and we are grateful); a *TX Hispanic pastor and wife* discouraged from lack of growth and struggling to serve in a low income area; and a *TX assoc. pastor and wife* serving in a church with significant financial problems that is also working to adjust their worship style. On Saturday, a local pastor and several of his members came out for a skeet shoot with our group. He also brought a young couple from Maryland who was visiting in view of a call for youth ministry. We all enjoyed sweet fellowship over lunch. We also hosted 2 wonderful donor couples on Saturday evening for dinner. The Lord blessed this week in S. Texas, and we are thanking Him.

Some dear friends of SHOR and of Dr. Gray and Mrs. Voncille came for a visit on Thursday, January 15. We are so grateful for folks who continue to love on and encourage both us and the Allison's.

We hosted a retreat in our **home February 5 - 8** with 3 couples: a *TN pastor and wife* who were recently terminated (they are having a tough time); a *young KY pastor and wife* serving in a church on a college campus – they are loving their work, but just needed time away; and an *AR church planter and wife* working through some significant issues. We are always amazed at how the Lord orchestrates retreats. He ordained special time for us with this couple so that specific needs could be addressed – what a great God we serve!

In **December**, Dr. Gray (Suzanne's Dad) got sick with the flu that progressed into pneumonia. We were grateful to be able to take care of him at home and avoid a hospital stay. He had a tough time regaining his strength but fought through. However, in **February**, he became ill with colitis and had to be hospitalized for 6 days. Suzanne's sister has been coming to Memphis (from Little Rock) to stay with Mimi and Papa when we do retreats so, bless her, she came over on Valentine's day so that we could go on to our retreat. Papa continues to improve, and we are thankful. However, *Mimi got sick* with bronchitis while we were away. She is continuing to cough so we would appreciate your prayers for their health (they are now 88 and 90!). We are so grateful that we live next door to

We traveled to **Blue Ridge, GA, on Sunday, February 15** to host these 4 couples: an *OH pastor and wife* who were terminated (they have a daughter who is a junior in High School and are facing a major decision about where to live for her senior year); a *FL pastor and wife* who have been through a church split and are pulling things back together; a *GA pastor and wife* who have just been through a very emotional time; and an *AL pastor and wife* who are experiencing some family issues and have been through many transitions in ministry (they were worn out!). The fellowship with this group and the cozy atmosphere around the fire was tremendous. Even though the weather was challenging, everyone made it there and back home safely, and we were praising the Lord!

We held a retreat in **Memphis March 4 – 7**. Although a major snow storm came in that Wednesday, these 4 couples arrived safe and sound: a *FL pastor and wife* celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and needing time away together; an *AR pastor and wife* (she lost both of her parents in the last 5 months) who needed time to rest; a *MO pastor and wife* who have a big family with many needs (he pastors two small churches); and a *TN bi-vocational assoc. pastor and wife* stretched to the limit and faced with some significant decisions in the near future. It was a great retreat!

We traveled to **Stuttgart AR** for a retreat **March 15 – 18** where we hosted these couples: an *AR pastor and wife* needing time away together; a *LA pastor and wife* desiring to develop leadership in their church (she had back surgery in Jan.); an *AR assoc. pastor and wife* working through a tough time in their church as well as a significant family issue; and an *OK pastor and wife* who are just worn out (they have a son facing an ongoing health problem). These couples enjoyed being together – what a wonderful week! We traveled to Texarkana TX where Charlie spoke to a group *bi-vocational pastors and wives* on Friday night before preaching at a local church on Saturday & Sunday. Our first board meeting of 2015 was Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We appreciate their guidance and wisdom for SHOR. All of our children will be home before Easter for spring break.

Today we read in Jeremiah 17:7- 8: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is in the Lord, for he shall . . . not cease from yielding fruit." Thank you for your love, encouragement, faithful prayers, and support.

*Suzanne and Charlie*



# Retreat Testimonies

We were battle worn when we arrived on Sunday. The last two years had been filled with stressful situations stemming from our new call to a church that had struggled through over 40 years of splits and in-fighting. The church was dying but we saw the possibilities for God to take back His church. During this retreat we were able to reconnect as a couple and spend time in prayer for our church and each of our congregation. We are leaving today with renewed hope.

The SHOR retreat was an answer to prayer! We needed a get-a-way to rest and talk about our lives (family and ministry). We are very grateful to the generous people who have made this possible for us. We have been encouraged by the conversations with other ministry couples and prayer support. We feel ready to enter another ministry season.

Having two children 2 years and younger can be tedious . . . joyful, but tedious. The opportunity for some "adult" time was so valuable! It reminded us of who we are together and the strengths we bring to each other. Additionally our church is celebrating a milestone in September – our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday! The last year has been full of prayer, seeking God's plan for the NEXT 10 years. To have time and quiet to focus and hear God's voice has been wonderful. We loved getting to share our hearts with Suzanne & Charlie – they were such an encouragement. We are leaving refreshed, encouraged, and grateful for our time with SHOR.

Rest and relaxation is hard to come by in the ministry. The quiet time with each other and the Lord was just what we needed. The retreat came just when we desperately needed it.

My husband and I have had few vacations in our 2 decades in ministry mostly because we don't have the finances for it. This retreat fit right into our price range – FREE! But, the saying, "you get what you pay for" does not describe the week we have experienced. Our time with Charlie, Suzanne, and the other ministry couples has been priceless and refreshing. We have been blessed by the servant hearts and warm hospitality shown by SHOR. Their love for the Lord and His people shines through everything they do. We feel grateful to have been a part of such a unique time of fellowship. We really appreciated the time of prayer set aside for each couple. Next to my early morning walks with the Lord, this prayer time was the highlight of my week. Thank you to all who made this retreat possible.

## Blessings!

A BIG thanks to the Pete Dlugosch family for allowing us to use wonderful 5 D Ranch for the January retreat in South Texas. The exotic animals and beautiful, peaceful scenery are a balm to our souls! Our warmest appreciation to Dale and Teresa Borgfeld for their hospitality at the Ranch during our stay. You are the best!

Special thanks to Gail Johnson for hosting our February retreat at Willow Falls in Blue Ridge GA. The meals were wonderful and the atmosphere in your beautiful place surrounded us with God's love. God bless you!

Sincere gratitude to Matt Mosler for sharing CrossHeirs Retreat Center with us. We love our time with you. Many thanks to Mo, Jeff, and sweet Camille for their servants' hearts in making everything so special for our retreat. What a blessing!

Heartfelt thanks to John & Lisa Webb and the folks at Pleasant Grove B. C. for loving on us & encouraging our hearts.

Loving appreciation to Suzanne's sister, Charlotte, for her care for Dr. & Mrs. Allison (Mimi and Papa) so that we are able to

We needed time to rest and review where the Lord is leading us. Our last place of service ended with a church that rejected us and chose their own way. We have a lot of hurt. The Lord led us to SHOR to provide a time of rest and to strengthen us. In just a few days, He has restored our vision and allowed us to see how He is working in other parts of the country. The love freely shown by Charlie and Suzanne made us feel like we were visiting old friends (although we just met). Their attitude of service and love for God was seen in how they care and in the time we spent in prayer.

We came to the retreat with strong feelings of betrayal and hurt. We felt used up and discarded. But here Charlie and Suzanne never offered anything but understanding, concern, and joy. This has been a timely breath of fresh air when we were at the deepest part of a valley-experience. We have felt understood, cared for, and affirmed without pressure or expectations. It was exactly what we needed!

Both of my wife's parents died this year. Their deaths were within 3 months of one another. Along with dealing with the grief, she has had to deal with the estate. At the same time, ministry never stops for the pastor's family. The emotional drain has her running on empty. SHOR is such a blessing. It provides a safe place to share with others in ministry who understand what you are going through. Charlie and Suzanne have a special gift from God to relate to ministry couples and to bless them with their sweet and sensitive spirits.

2014 was a very difficult year for us. We began the year living with our parents and expecting our second child. Bells palsy just before Easter left my husband down and having a hard time ministering. The summer saw us purchase our 1<sup>st</sup> home on the heels of difficulty at work for me, and the beginning of a drawn-out termination for him. We worked on our new home and moved in September 1<sup>st</sup>. November was not only my husband's last Sunday at the current church but also brought an interview with a new church. December 21<sup>st</sup> we were called to an incredibly unique position at an equally unique church. The LORD has proven Himself strong to carry us, but the whirlwind still hasn't quit spinning. This retreat has given us a chance to truly be still, to feel loved and appreciate by folks who are not kin, to hold fast to one another, and to reflect on God's goodness without rushing off to the next event. *THANK YOU* for allowing us this time to pause and rest.

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ *For our upcoming retreats in Branson MO, Memphis TN (2), and Stonewall, W VA. For the booth we will host at the So. Baptist Convention in Columbus OH. We have the opportunity of touching over 1000 in ministry*
- ◆ *For the couples scheduled for retreats that the Lord would protect this time away for them to be refreshed The enemy is alive and well and wants to keep couples from receiving encouragement! (see the information from couples below for specific ways to pray)*
- ◆ *For regular monthly or quarterly support for the work of the ministry (From the inception of SHOR we have prayed for 500 donors who would give \$20 a month to underwrite the costs of retreats. For the last 3 years, we have averaged 184 donors – approximately 65 give monthly in their support.)*
- ◆ *For our physical and spiritual strength and for God's wisdom in every situation*
- ◆ *PRAISE: Couples in S. Carolina, Texas, and Utah have contacted us in recent months to share that the Lord is burdening them to encourage others in ministry. Would you pray that they would be greatly used of Him?*

# Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 6 - 9	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
April 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
May 11 - 15	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
June 9 - 12	SHOR retreat	Stonewall W VA
June 14 - 17	So. Baptist Convention	Columbus OH
July 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Pueblo CO
August 11 - 14	SHOR retreat	Destin FL
August 17 - 20	SHOR retreat	Destin FL
September 4 - 7	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
September 14 - 17	SHOR retreat	TBA Idaho
October 5 - 9	SHOR retreat	Townsend TN
October 22 - 25	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
November 5 - 9	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
November 12 - 15	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY

# To Think About . . .

The following are excerpts from retreat applications of folks scheduled for upcoming retreats: (please pray for them as they prepare to attend a retreat – this is a critical need)

What do you believe to be the greatest problem you face in your ministry?

- ✦ Because of some serious issues in the church, restoring the church's trust in staff is vital
- ✦ Fear and unwilling members
- ✦ The limitations our health has put on us; time away would be very healing for us
- ✦ Discouragement, lack of time, insufficient resources
- ✦ Believing in myself and who I am in Christ enough to lead with confidence (past experiences impact this area)

What are your wife's greatest needs?

- ♥ Feeling loved and building self esteem
- ♥ Stress relief
- ♥ Find our new "normal" after breast cancer; encouragement and support
- ♥ Healing: she is hurt by the way our church has handled my termination; our daughter has lost her friends and this has hurt my wife
- ♥ Moving to Indonesia in the fall – need time together and in prayer before this major opportunity

**What makes SHOR different?** Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge  
Charlie & Suzanne are available to talk with and to pray with each couple  
Ministry couples are served and allowed to rest with no agenda



Charlie & Suzanne Grigsby  
5525 Chester Street  
Arlington, TN 38002

Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge.  
Please pray about supporting this ministry.

To better assist you, we now have several contribution options:

- \* **Paypal** available at [www.shorministries.com](http://www.shorministries.com)
- Check or Money order (use the supplied envelope) **NO CASH PLEASE**
- Credit Card: Visa, MasterCard or American Express
- Bank Draft: call 901-867-3843, or email us at [info@shorministries.com](mailto:info@shorministries.com) to get set up

**All gifts to Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries are tax deductible**

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*Better late than never . . .*



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Feel free to contact us. We would love to hear from you.

Visit us on the Web @  
[www.shorministries.com](http://www.shorministries.com)

*Dean pastors at LifePoint  
Columbus, OH  
Chad pastors at Compass  
Church Batesville, AR  
David is a physical therapist  
& is serving as chairman of  
deacons at Bartlett Baptist  
We covet your prayers for  
our family and our ministries.*

**Christmas Day, 2014 at Mimi and Papa's**  
Front row: Luke (7), Sydney (15) & Dillon Fulks (13)  
Second row: Sylvia Fulks (10), Lydia (11), Dr. Gray (Papa) & Mrs. Voncille (Mimi)  
Back row: Dean & Angie Fulks, Chad, Ezra & Jessica Grigsby, Karen & David